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Rep. Czaja: State Budget Clears Assembly

Votes to invest in education and protect Wisconsin taxpayers

Following the Assembly passage of the 2015-2017 state budget, by a vote of 52-46, Rep. Mary Czaja (R-Irma) released the following statement:

“This state budget is a product of compromise. Since the Governor introduced his budget last February, I have worked with my colleagues on the Joint Finance Committee to do our due diligence on crafting a final version of the budget that reflects our constituent feedback. We heard early on from school districts and parents that the number-one priority was to invest in our schools; the Legislature has answered that call by committing nearly \$200 million of additional funds to K-12 education.

We have also kept our promises to seniors, both by protecting the popular SeniorCare program and by holding the line on property taxes which are the single biggest fixed-cost for seniors across the northwoods. We listened and responded to the calls from concerned citizens and advocacy groups all across the state on the need to maintain high-quality health services our most vulnerable residents depend on for daily quality of life. The upcoming budget also helps to ensure our students and workforce can get the training they need to succeed, by continuing the freeze on in-state tuition at UW campuses and providing additional flexibilities for technical colleges.

“While there is no such thing as a perfect budget, the overall product reflects the priorities and feedback of our district. I am proud that many of the recommendations from last session’s Rural School Task Force were included in this budget, including additional funds for broadband and digital learning in our classrooms. I am also grateful to see the Legislature unite behind additional investments in “Fab-Labs”, the high-tech workshops for K-12 students and small businesses that are helping drive economic activity in northern Wisconsin.”

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